

# NSW POSITIVE RUGBY FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT

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## 2020



# 2020 OVERVIEW

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**Head of Foundation Report**  
**Greg Mumm**

In what has been nothing short of an unprecedented year for all of us and rugby particularly, I am reminded of a Winston Churchill quote:

*“However beautiful the strategy, you should occasionally look at the results”*

This annual report has been created to provide an honest and transparent look at the achievements of the Positive Rugby Foundation. In this regard, over the past 12 months we have underachieved in terms of fundraising, and probably overachieved in terms of programs and resources delivered relative to the circumstances.

## **Fundraising**

In terms of fundraising, predominantly our coterie memberships drive happens between October and March each year, and this was impacted by a number of headwinds; Rugby World Cup meant that many of the rugby supporters we would approach were overseas and had spent some of their disposable income on this trip so we struggled to attract possible members to events;

The Waratahs had a disappointing year which resulted in the Head Coach resigning, followed by the CEO resigning and the organisation not having a replacement on ground between October and the end of February; finally, general sentiment around rugby was poor due to the Israel Folua case, poor World Cup performance and associated press. Unfortunately, when Covid hit in March we also had to cancel three more member recruitment events.



# 2020 OVERVIEW

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Ultimately this saw our numbers drop from 37 members in 2019 to 28 in 2020. Of this number though we maintained 14 members who are now third year members and individually and collectively have made a huge contribution to our work and grassroots rugby.

## Covid

Covid impacted NSW Rugby massively and as a department of the organisation it also affected the Foundation. NSW Rugby revenue was down 60% for the period between April and September and 30% down over the 12 months. The funding independence of the Foundation ensured that many of our programs were able to remain, but it did have the following impacts;

- Andrew Hill and Tina Campbell were stood down on Jobkeeper from April 1 to July 1. I had my hours reduced to 3 days per week for this period as well.
- All staff were then returned between July 1 and October 1 at 3 days per week.
- Operating budgets were decreased, and expenditure reduced significantly.

However, with membership support and the vision of the Foundation ensured that all staff remained employed during this period to the present moment.

## Program Impact

Because the Foundation was able to remain active, we achieved some excellent results and impact. As many other broader community programs were not able to function due to stand-downs and redundancies – the relative impact of the Foundations programs increased.

## Major results:

**1.**Safety **2.** Coaching App **3.** Classic Coaches **4.** Dubbo Sports Hub **5.** Schools Support  
**6.** Development Officers **7.** Gen Blue Camps **8.** Get Talkin Tour **9.** Rugby. Tackle Life

# 2020 HIGHLIGHTS

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## Development Officers

The NSW Positive Rugby Foundation reached an agreement to partner with Country Rugby, Sydney Junior Rugby Union and NSWRU to retain the services of Development Officers in both country and metro NSW.



## Captain, Coach, CEO Lunch

A great day with Coterie Members and Waratahs talking all things rugby present and future.

## Dubbo Sports Hub

NSW Rugby Union and the Positive Rugby Foundation have been selected as the successful proponent in the tender for the Dubbo Sports Hub project, to establish a Country and Indigenous Rugby Centre of Excellence.





# SCHOOLS & JUNIORS

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## Junior Club Participation Data Project

Andrew Hill our head of Schools and Juniors put together a club participation analysis for all 300 clubs in NSW. He used historical participation data combined with a survey to give each individual club personalised feedback on their club and also from their members. This was really well received by all clubs with the aim to help improve rugby at each club and give them some feedback and direction to grow.

## Mental Health

The Foundation partnered with Batyr to produce a mental health awareness resource featuring Sharni Williams (Aus 7s captain and Gold Medalist) and Hugh Bokenham (Aus 20s and Waratah Academy player) and is available for all schools and clubs to help start the conversation about Mental Health.

## Safety

We have delivered a number of safety programs and initiatives this year including:

- Front Row Passport - assessment learning for player grading.
- Rugby safety research project.
- Immediate Care in Rugby Course - for school doctors and physios to improve capabilities in rugby related injuries.



# GIRLS & WOMEN'S

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## Female Development Officer

NSW Positive Rugby Foundation, NSWRU and Sydney Junior Rugby Union collectively reached an agreement to retain the services of a female Development Officer in 2020 who is focused on the following priorities:

- Retention to increase participation in girls rugby across all ages.
- Establish competitions that aid the growth and progression of girls rugby from junior level to senior.
- Implement training programs to develop overall skill level of female rugby players
- Assist clubs in starting or retaining a girls rugby program.

## NSWRU Schoolgirls 7s Super Series

There has been great progression with this competition (previously Barker Girls Competition) including the expansion plans for 2021 to go from 1 location to 4 locations with a crossover finals series. Other progressions include the competition to be administered on Rugby Xplorer to enable concussion tracking, coach accreditation, match day app, live scoring, ladders, individual stats etc.





# ELITE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

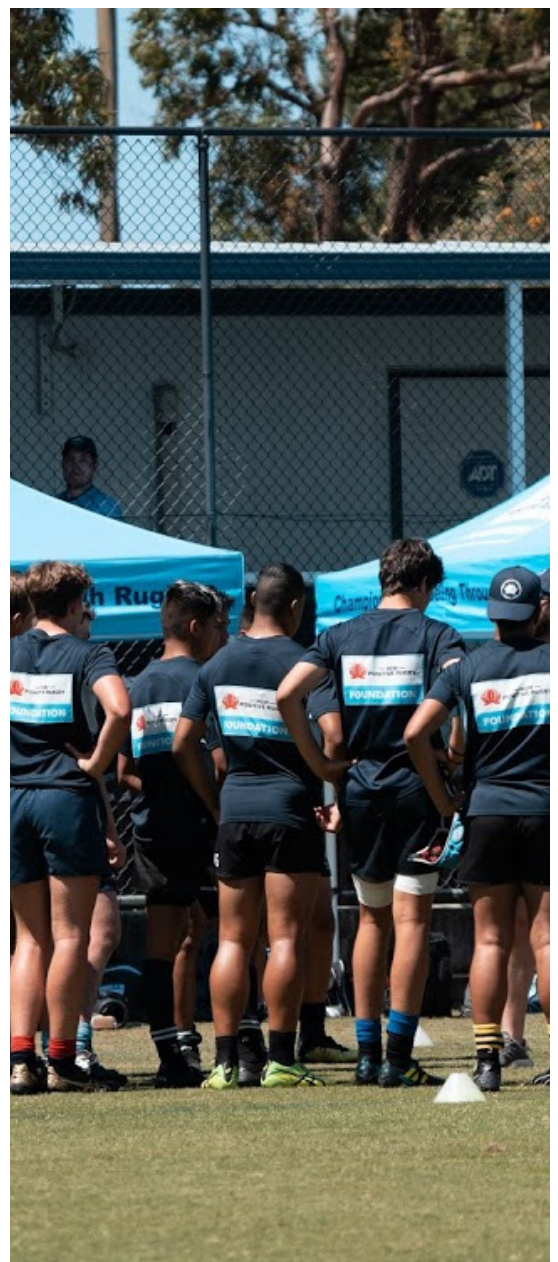
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## Gen Blue Camps

Due to Covid restrictions many of the Elite Youth Programs were cancelled this year, with most school based talent pathways and tournaments not going ahead.

At the same time, NSW Academy budgets were slashed, leaving the young players with the possibility of no Talent Identification Programs.

In partnership with the Gen Blue Staff, we were able to step in and fund 3 x 2 day camps based out of Daceyville, using Waratah Staff where the players still got amazing coaching, training kit acknowledging their selection in the program, and most importantly a chance to be seen and advance their rugby pathways.



# COUNTRY RUGBY

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## Get Talking Tour

As in previous years, part of our support for Country clubs continues to be through the Get Talking Tour, and despite challenges we were still able to deliver programs in the following locations in 2020;

- Barraba
- Tamworth
- Dubbo
- Kiama
- Ballina
- Lismore

## Development Officers

The Foundation has been able to support rugby in the Country with much needed immediate support through partnering with Country Rugby themselves to co-fund Country Development officers between October and February to ensure that these roles weren't made redundant. This directive saved the jobs of 5 x Development Officers - resources that are vital to Country Rugby. We have also played a lead role in advocating for a sustainable solution to be found to ensure that these roles are not put in jeopardy again.





# COUNTRY RUGBY

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## **Dubbo Sports Hub**

The Positive Rugby Foundation has taken a lead role in working with the Deputy Premiers Office and the Office of Sport to successfully secure rugby as a tenant in the multi-million dollar Sports Hub at Dubbo.

Alongside the PCYC, Tennis and Netball, Rugby has a business case together for a \$17.3m facility, which will include:

- 4 x playing fields (2 synthetic)
- 1000 seat grandstand
- Performance gym and training area
- Offices and classrooms
- Multi-use function area and clubhouse

This centre will act as a Centre of Excellence for both Country Rugby and Indigenous Rugby. It represents a significant collaboration between affiliates and rugby stakeholders, with everyone from Central West Rugby through to Rugby AU supporting the business case with the promise of tournaments such as State Championships, Country Championships, Super Rugby Trials, Australian Age Grade Championships, Wallaroo's camps and Indigenous Programs.

On top of the \$20m Daceyville Centre of Excellence predicted to be ready in 2022, this will now provide Country and Indigenous Rugby and the whole Western part of the state with a facility they can also be proud of and greatly improve their access to programs, education and high quality tournaments and matches.

# INDIGENOUS RUGBY

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## **Centre of Excellence for Indigenous Rugby - based at the Dubbo Sports Hub**

As part of our involvement in the Dubbo Sports Hub development, we have pushed hard to have the facility act as a Centre of Excellence of Indigenous Rugby.

This would be a first in Australian rugby, and allow programs such as Lloyd McDermott, the First Nations program, Clontarf Academy, Girls Academy programs and the Ella Sevens to have a home for their events, and a home for Indigenous rugby that doesn't always require this community to come to Sydney.

This is an exciting development which will have long lasting impacts on Indigenous participation in the state and for all of rugby in Australia.





# WESTERN SYDNEY

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## **Rugby.Tackle Life!**

In partnership with Multicultural NSW and Creating Chances, we have started the delivery of 5 x High School and community programs in Western Sydney.

These programs use rugby as a vehicle to teach year 10 students how to coach rugby and how to mentor younger students. Over the course of a 25 week program, 8 weeks are used to train the year 10 students and develop communication skills, leadership, mentoring skills and rugby knowledge including mentoring by Super W and Super Rugby squad members.

Following this, the High School students then run a subsequent 8-week program in either that schools year 7, or with surrounding primary schools. They then run another 8-week community engagement program, meaning that each High School has the ability to run programs for an additional 100 – 200 younger rugby players.

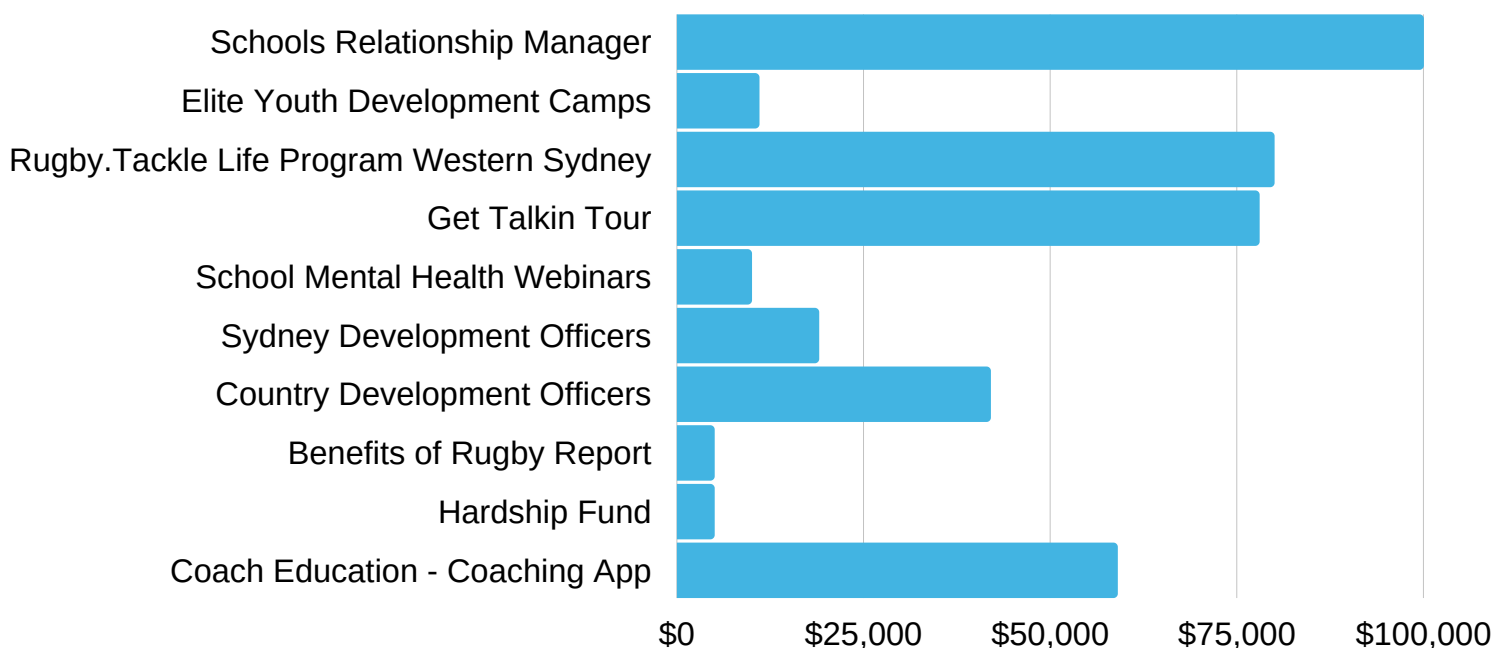
This program is in year one of a four-year partnership with both parties.



# KEY FINANCIALS

**Total funds raised = \$436,099**

## **FY 2020 Expenditure**



**Total expenditure on programs and resources = \$409,000**

**Operating budget = \$316,000**

80% of all donations are spent directly on programs and resources and not operating expenses. NSW RU supports the Foundation through contributing to operating budget over and above the 20% operating contribution from donations.

**Total Expenditure = \$725,000**

### **Money at bank**

**Schools and Juniors = \$123,616**

**Country = \$6,327**

**Elite Youth = \$11,636**

**Girls and Womens = \$5,735**

**Indigenous = \$4,725**

# OUR PARTNERS

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# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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— NSW —  
**POSITIVE RUGBY**

**FOUNDATION**